4. Provision of road signs and speed breakers at the approaches of unmanned level crossings to warn the road vehicle drivers and reduce their speed.

5. Ensuring visibility for road users as far as possible.

6. Involvement of village panchayats, local farmers owning tractors, under public awareness programme.

7. The Railways have also been coordinating with the State Governments/Road Transport Authorities for education of vehicle drivers and for strict enforcement of rules.

8. A train actuated warning device developed by M/s BEL is currently under trial. This will sound a hooter and flash a light when a train is approaching the level crossing at a distance of 2 kms.

Non-Declaration of Bilaspur as a Railway Zone

*417. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big resentment in Madhya Pradesh for non-declaration of Bilaspur as a Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove discontentment among the people of the region?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) A number of references have been received expressing resentment over the issue.

(b) The Government is according high priority to the development of the rail infrastructure in the area, for which several new works are planned.

India-Oman agreement for setting up a Fertilizer Plant

*418. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an agreement with Oman for setting up a fertilizer plant in the joint sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project will be started and the likely time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of India/ Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited [KRIBHCO]/Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited [RCF] and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman/ Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report [DFR] for setting up a 3500 tonnes per day ammonia and 4400 tonnes per day urea project in Oman at an estimated cost of US $ 897 million [now revised to US $ 1106 million], including financing charges. As per the implementation schedule, work on the project is to start in March, 1997 and be completed by March, 2000. The investment decision is yet to be taken by the project sponsors.

Increasing Subsidy on Drip Irrigation for Oilpalm

*419. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented for increasing the subsidy for providing drip irrigation for oilpalm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the subsidy to boost export of oilpalm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had represented for increasing subsidy at par with horticulatural crops, which meant increasing subsidy for installation of drip irrigation system for oil palm growers from Rs. 10,000 per hectare to Rs. 15,000 per hectare, or 50% of cost of installation, whichever is less. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also sought relaxation in restriction of area from 1 hectare to 6 hectares and increase in funding pattern from 80:20 to 90:10 sharing basis between Government of India and State Government.

(c) The Government of India raised the subsidy to Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxed the restriction of area to 6 hectares for installation of drip irrigation system for the year 1995-96. Further, the subsidy borne by Government of India with State Governments was revised from 80:20 to 90:10 sharing basis. For the year 1996-97, the matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) No measures have so far been taken to increase export of Oil Palm.

Integrated Programme on Rice Development

*420 SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest location of specific high-yielding varieties of rice which are being propagated in Maharashtra and Punjab under the Integrated Programme on Rice Development (IPRD);

(b) the difference in production on rice due to these varieties;

(c) how do these varieties differ from others; and

(d) the steps to be taken to make the IPRD more effective?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD) was under implementation in the years 1991-92 to 1993-94 of the 8th Plan. From 1994-95 onwards the scheme has been modified to a cropping system approach. An Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) on rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems areas is being implemented. The States of Maharashtra and Punjab are covered under ICDP Coarse Cereal and ICDP-Wheat respectively with due emphasis on rice as an important crop of the cropping system. According to the information given by the two State Governments the latest tigh yielding varieties propagated in Maharashtra and Punjab are given in statement (*See* below):

(b) It is not possible to exactly quantify the increase in production/ productivity of rice vis-a-vis each variety. However increasing trend had been observed in production and productivity of Rice in Punjab and Maharashtra.

(c) The recently released location specific high yielding varieties differ from older varieties with higher yielding capacity, resistance to diseases and pests and drought/salinity, area specificity etc.

(d) As referred to in answer to part (a) the crop production programmes are taken up under development of cropping system for sustainable agriculture and increasing production of cereals including rice. To increase production and productivity, incentives for use of certified seeds, demonstration on production technology, frontline demonstration by ICAR on location